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REVIEWS

MODERN TREATMENT YEAR BOOK, 1947. Edited by Sir Cecil Wakeley, K.B.E., C.B., D.Sc., F.R.C.S. Pp. viii and 354, 38 figs., and 17 plates. 15s. This volume, as indicated in its sub-title, is intended to be an aid to diagnosis and treatment for the general practitioner.

It is a collection of forty-four articles covering a wide range of subjects in general medicine and surgery and in the specialties.

In the preface Sir Cecil Wakeley writes : "With post-war fatigue and a lack of interest due to such a constant unpalatable diet, the average doctor requires something to interest him in the few moments he has for medical reading." The pabulum offered in this book, however, is not light or concentrated nourishment, nor is it suitable for a hurried meal. There is much useful and interesting information on recent advances in diagnosis and treatment, but also much that could be found more readily in standard textbooks.

There is no attempt at classification of the material. An arrangement under sections would look more orderly and would facilitate reference.

Nevertheless, the majority of the articles elucidate everyday problems met in general practice, and this book should be helpful to many doctors in keeping them abreast of the latest scientific achievements and technical advances in medicine.

W. G. F.

RETROPUBIC URINARY SURGERY. By Terence Millen, F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.I. Pp. 208. Edinburgh : E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 25s.

Mr. Terence Millen has been particularly fortunate in the publishers of his recently published *Retropubic Urinary Surgery*. Printing, paper, and illustrations are of a much higher standard than one expects in these austere times.

After a careful analysis of the different types of prostatic obstruction and a short critical review of the various operations employed for its relief he deals with the history of the retropubic approach which was used as long ago as 1908, but was not adopted as a recognised method until after August, 1945, when Mr. Millen described the technique which has been so successful in his practice.

He then deals with the anatomy of the region, the preparation of the patient, and gives an excellent description of all the details of the operation, the after-care and complications.

He concludes with a description of his own operation for stress incontinence in the female, as this is to a large extent a retropubic operation.

Whilst all urological surgeons have not had the same success as Mr. Millen with the retropubic approach, there is no doubt that it is a major contribution to prostatic surgery.

In conclusion one must say that it is not an operation to be attempted unless the surgeon has a wide experience, adequate equipment, and a competent team.

C. J. A. W.